

REMARKS

Applicant recognizes Examiner's allowance of Claims 2, 3 and 8, and approval of Applicant's proposed drawing corrections dated 10/3/2005.

Examiner has objected to the disclosure because of informalities. Specifically, Examiner has stated that newly amended claims 1, 3 and 7 include new phraseology not found in the specification. Examiner has also rejected Claims 1, 7, 9-11, 13, 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite; specifically referring to lines 3-8 in Claim 1, and to lines 1-2 in Claim 7, but noting that "Claims 7, 9-11, 13, 14, and 16 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections." Further, Examiner has rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) "as being anticipated by Jackson et al. (6,195,848).

Specifically in response to Examiner's objection to Claims 1 and 3, and in recognition of Examiner's allowance of Claims 2 and 3, Applicant has amended dependent Claims 2 and 3 to incorporate the limitations of Independent Claim 1, and has further amended those limitations to clarify the structural language. That is, in Claims 2 and 3, Applicant has replaced the language from the previous Claim 1 limitations regarding the curved midsection and the ends being in the same plane with language with new language, wherein the midsection and ends define "a curved shape visible from a first two opposing directions" and "a straight shape visible from a second two opposing directions," with the second two opposing directions "perpendicular to said first two opposing directions." Thus, Applicant respectfully believes that the structural conformation of Applicants clamping lever is now readily apparent and that Claims 2 and 3, independent as amended, are now in condition for allowance.

Specifically in response to Examiner's objection to Claim 7, Applicant has amended independent Claim 7 to positively claim the panel, both in the preamble and within the claim text.

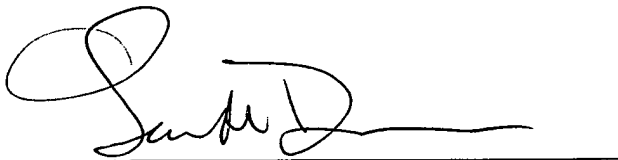
In order to proceed to patent allowance with respect to those claims found by Examiner to contain allowable subject matter, as referenced hereinabove, Applicant has amended Claim 2, 3 and 7, and has cancelled Claims 1, 4-6, 12, 15, and 17 without prejudice. Applicant respectfully asserts that, in view of Applicant's amendment to Independent Claims 2 and 7, Examiner's rejection of Claims 9-11, 13, 14 and 16 has been rendered moot. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue prosecution of all cancelled subject matter in a continuation and/or divisional application to be filed during the pendency of the present application.

CONCLUSION

Examiner has allowed Claims 2, 3, and 8, and subject to Applicant's amendment herein, has found Claims 7, 9-11, 13, 14, and 16 to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the application proceed to issuance in view of the cancellation of Claims 1, 4-6, 12, 15 and 17, without prejudice. Applicant intends to file a continuation and/or divisional application to pursue further examination of said cancelled claims.

The above-made amendments are to form only and thus, no new matter was added. Applicant respectfully believes that the above-made amendments now place the remaining Claims in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further questions and/or comments, Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's undersigned Attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted, this 17th day of February, 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra M. Drummond', is written over a horizontal line.

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